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What is claimed is:

1. A gastrostomy feeding device having improved resistance to acidic and enzymatic degradation comprising an elongated feeding tube having a first end for insertion through a patient's abdominal wall and a second end including a feeding inlet, and an anchoring means mounted on the feeding tube to retain said feeding tube within the stomach wherein said anchoring means has at least one internal retaining member comprised of a modified silicone elastomer.

2. The gastrostomy feeding device according to claim 1 wherein the modified silicone elastomer is a member selected from the group consisting of trifluoropropylsiloxane modified dimethylpolysiloxane, diphenylsiloxane modified dimethylpolysiloxane, and combinations thereof.

3. The gastrostomy feeding device according to claim 2 wherein said modified silicone elastomer is a trifluoropropylsiloxane modified dimethylpolysiloxane.

4. The gastrostomy feeding device according to claim 2 wherein said modified silicone elastomer is a diphenylsiloxane modified dimethylpolysiloxane.

5. The gastrostomy feeding device according to Claim 3 wherein the trifluoropropylsiloxane content of said elastomer is from about 5 to 95 mole percent.

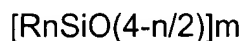
6. The gastrostomy feeding device according to Claim 5 wherein

the trifluoropropylsiloxane content of said elastomer is from about 40 to 60 mole percent.

5 7. The gastrostomy feeding device according to Claim 4 wherein the diphenylsiloxane content of said elastomer is from about 0.5 to 50 mole percent.

8. The gastrostomy feeding device according to Claim 7 wherein the diphenylsiloxane content of said elastomer is from about 10 to 25 mole percent.

10 9. The gastrostomy feeding device according to Claim 1, wherein the modified silicone elastomer comprises:



wherein n is 1-3, m > 1, and R comprises methyl, alkyl, fluoroalkyl, phenyl, vinyl, alkoxy, or alkylamino groups.

15 10. The gastrostomy feeding device according to Claim 4, wherein the diphenylsiloxane content of the elastomer is less than about 10 mole percent.

11. The gastrostomy feeding device according to Claim 4, wherein the diphenylsiloxane content of the elastomer is less than about 2 mole percent.

20 12. The gastrostomy feeding device according to Claim 1, wherein the modified silicone elastomer is endcapped with a material selected from the group consisting of dimethylvinylsiloxane groups, trimethylsiloxy groups, methylphenylvinylsiloxy groups and hydroxyl

groups.

13. A gastrostomy feeding device comprising:

an elongated feeding tube having a first end for insertion through a patient's abdominal wall and a second end including a feeding inlet, and an internal retaining member for retaining the feeding tube within the stomach, said internal retaining member comprised of a fluoro modified polysiloxane.

14. A gastrostomy feeding device according to Claim 13, wherein said fluoro modified polysiloxane comprises a trifluoropropylsiloxane modified dimethylpolysiloxane.

15. A gastrostomy feeding device as defined in Claim 13, wherein said polysiloxane comprises a dimethylpolysiloxane.

16. A gastrostomy feeding device as defined in Claim 13, wherein the fluoro modified polysiloxane contains from about 40 mole percent to about 60 mole percent fluoro groups.

17. A gastrostomy feeding device as defined in Claim 14, wherein the fluoro modified polysiloxane contains trifluoropropylsiloxane in an amount from about 40 mole percent to about 60 mole percent.

18. A gastrostomy feeding device as defined in Claim 13, wherein the fluoro modified polysiloxane is endcapped with a material selected from the group consisting of dimethylvinylsiloxane groups, trimethylsiloxy groups, methylphenylvinylsiloxy groups and hydroxyl groups.

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23. A gastrostomy feeding device as defined in Claim 21, wherein said phenyl modified polysiloxane contains diphenylsiloxane groups in an amount less than about 2 mole percent.

24. A gastrostomy feeding device as defined in Claim 20, wherein said phenyl modified polysiloxane contains phenyl groups in an amount less than about 2 mole percent.

25. A gastrostomy feeding device as defined in Claim 20, wherein the phenyl modified polysiloxane is endcapped with a material selected from the group consisting of dimethylvinylsiloxane groups,

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26. A gastrostomy feeding device as defined in Claim 20, wherein said phenyl modified polysiloxane contains a filler.